

Commission News

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MSWCC preparing for MACD annual meeting

BY KATHY DOUGAN, MSWCC

MSWCC staffers are working at the pace of Santa's elves again this year to ensure a terrific MACD 75th Annual Meeting. The deadline for early-bird registration is Dec. 20, 2019, so be sure to visit the MACD website, www.macdweb.org to complete your online registration.

We're collecting items for the Live and Silent Auctions, so please let your MSWCC Field Representative know if you have items for the auctions that we need to pick up.

In order to put together the slideshow presentation for the Live Auction, it is important to get the items to the MSWCC office as soon as possible for Kathy Dougan to take photographs of them. If you plan to bring the items with you, please email a good digital photograph of the item(s) and send to Hope Daley hda-ley@mswcc.ms.gov, and Kathy Dougan kdougan@mswcc.ms.gov.

Speaking of the Live Auction, we have a very special guest this year who will help with the auction and will be the keynote speaker

at Thursday night's banquet: "The Mayberry Deputy/David Browning." In keeping with the MACD 75th Annual Meeting "Mayberry" theme, Browning is the perfect choice, as his depiction of Deputy Barney Fife is described as follows:

"While following law enforcement, Browning's Mayberry Deputy incorporates costume, gestures, facial expressions and audience participation to provide an atmosphere of good, clean fun." Those attending the meeting are invited to dress as your favorite Mayberry character.

In addition to annual events at the meeting such as the President's awards luncheon, the Commissioners' luncheon, the closing banquet, live and silent auctions, and district success stories, this year the meeting includes general session topics such as, *Understanding Delta Flooding and Economic Im-*



"The Mayberry Deputy/
David Browning"

pact; a panel discussion led by Peter Nimrod, Chief Engineer of the Levy Board; a speaker from the Army Corp of Engineers; and Sharkey County Landowners.

Caucuses from Congressional Districts 3 and 4 will convene, commissioners will take their oaths of office, MCDEA will host educational sessions, and MACD will hold officer elec-

tions.

Please be sure to make your reservation for this year's MACD 75th Annual Meeting. Early bird registration, which must be in by Friday, Dec. 20, is \$150; after Dec. 20, the registration price will be \$175. You may complete your reservation form online or mail it postmarked by Dec. 20, 2019, to MACD, P.O. Box 23005, Jackson, MS 39225-3005.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 75th Annual Meeting!

UPCOMING
EVENTS

MACD ANNUAL MEETING: Jan. 22-23, 2020, Jackson-Hilton, Jackson, MS. For information visit www.macdweb.org

NACD 74th ANNUAL MEETING: Feb. 8-12, 2020, Las Vegas. For more information, please visit *NACD's Annual Meeting* webpage.

Envirothon registration deadline is Jan. 31, 2020

BY KATHY DOUGAN, MSWCC

MSWCC Envirothon Coordinator Chelsey Gazaway reminds all schools or FFA groups with teams, or those who wish to enter teams in the 2020 Envirothon competition to be sure to register by Jan. 31, 2020.

The Envirothon is the ultimate environmental education experience. Over the course of several months of study, participants must prepare themselves for testing in the areas of:

Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Forestry, and a Current Issue.

This year's current issue is *Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions*.

Designed to foster cooperation and teamwork, 5-member teams are tested not only on their knowledge in the topic areas, but also on their ability to apply that knowledge to solve real-life problems.

Problem solving and teamwork are skills that enhance participants' ability to take leadership roles after high school or college, no matter their chosen field or career.

For more information about the 2020 Envirothon Competition, please contact Envirothon Coordinator Chelsey Gazaway at (662) 647-8857, ext. 103, or email Chelsey.Gazaway@ms.nacdn.net.

ENVIROTHON TRAINING SESSIONS

South Area: Wed., Jan. 29, 2020, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Moss Point, MS

Delta Area: Wed., Feb. 5, 2020, Area-4 NRCS Area Office, Greenwood, MS

Central Area: Thurs., Feb. 6, 2020, Central-MS Research & Extension Center, Raymond, MS

North Area: Wed., Feb. 19, 2020, The Gale Center, Hernando, MS

Time draws near to get your MACD Drawdown Tickets!

It's that time of year to show your support for The Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts Endowment Fund Scholarships.

The 2020 Drawdown is for \$5,000, and only 500 tickets for \$50 each will be sold, giving you a 1-in-500 opportunity to win.

The Drawdown begins at 6:30 PM Wed., Jan.

22, 2020, at the 2020 MACD Annual Meeting at the Hilton-Jackson. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets can be purchased from your conservation district county office or from MACD Secretary/Treasurer Hope Daley. For more info, email hdaley@mswcc.ms.gov or call 601-325-8599.

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